

SENATE RESOLUTION 89

By Kilby

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Verda Lee Wilson for meritorious service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as excellent public servants and who give freely of their time and resources for the betterment of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Verda Lee Wilson is one such estimable person who was recently featured in the *Senior Lifestyles 2007* section of the *Morgan County News* for his many years in the teaching profession and for his continued active and outstanding service to his community; and

WHEREAS, Verda Wilson, who lives on part of the land that was once his parents' family farm, is a highly respected member of Morgan County; and

WHEREAS, the youngest of six children, Mr. Wilson's first encounter with public education was at Joyner School, which was built in 1917; he would eventually teach there and serve as the school's principal; and

WHEREAS, when just a junior in high school, Mr. Wilson registered for the draft as an eighteen-year-old; a few weeks later, he was on a transport ship bound for Germany and spent two years there rebuilding an airstrip; and

WHEREAS, upon his return home, Mr. Wilson finished high school and went on to study teaching, earning his bachelor's degree in 1952; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated professional, Verda Wilson not only taught and served as principal of Joyner School, he also coached softball and basketball, and occasionally washed dishes, performed janitorial duties, and drove the school bus when needed; and

WHEREAS, from Joyner, Mr. Wilson was elevated to the staff of the Morgan County Schools Central Office, eventually retiring in 1991, after an impressive forty-year tenure with Morgan County Schools; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson was an extremely talented and compassionate educator who worked assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, Verda Wilson is most grateful for the love and companionship of his wife, Bonnie, to whom he has been married since 1952; together they have two children, Ronnie Wilson, who follows a family tradition of educational excellence as an educator and now serves as Supervisor of Attendance for Morgan County Schools, and Debbie, who is a secretary at Coalfield School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson also enjoys the company of his five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, in his spare time, he enjoys singing and participating in activities associated with his church; Verda Wilson has lent his talents as a singer in a quartet for many years and fondly recalls the many convention singings that were popular in the area churches during his youth; and

WHEREAS, accepting the Lord as his Savior at nine years old, Mr. Wilson faithfully worships at Union Baptist Church, serving various offices, including Sunday school teacher, Sunday school superintendent, choir leader, and deacon; he was ordained as a deacon in 1960, following in both his father's and grandfather's footsteps as a servant in the church; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Verda Lee Wilson for his dedication to the betterment of the Morgan County community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Verda Lee Wilson for his exemplary acts of volunteerism in his community and his many years of meritorious service as a respected teacher and administrator, as we extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.